Vangrams in Madhya Pradesh

†2316. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY:
SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Vangrams in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the action being taken to convert these Vangrams of Madhya Pradesh into Revenue Village; and

(c) by when these Vangrams would be notified as Revenue Villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) There are 925 forest villages in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests issued guidelines dated 18.09.1990 for conversion of such forest villages into revenue villages. Forest villages get converted into revenue villages after de-notification of requisite forest land. The State Governments are required to submit proposals for conversion of such villages into revenue villages for approval of Central Government. The revenue villages fall within the jurisdiction of the revenue authorities of the respective State/Union Territory Governments whereas administration of forest villages rests with State Forest Department. On conversion of forest villages into revenue villages, the villagers are conferred heritable but inalienable rights over the land.

(c) 234 forest villages in Madhya Pradesh have been converted into revenue villages so far. The process has been stayed by the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Agreement with Japanese firm to make Ganga river pollution-free

†2317. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement has been entered into with a Japanese firm to make the Ganga river pollution-free;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, by when this firm would make the Ganga pollution-free;

(c) what efforts have been made by Government, so far, to make the Ganga pollution-free; and

(d) what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) In addition to the works presently in progress for abatement of pollution in the river Ganga under the Ganga Action Plan-Phase II (GAP-II) the Government has signed a loan agreement with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for taking up pollution abatement works in the river at Varanasi. Assistance has also been sought from JBIC for similar projects at Allahabad and Kanpur for the river Ganga, at Lucknow for the river Gomti and under the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP Phase-III) for the river Yamuna in the three States of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, in addition to YAP Phase-II already under implementation at present in these States with the assistance from JBIC. A total of 187 schemes of pollution abatement in Ganga river are currently in various stages of implementation in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal and West Bengal under GAP-II in addition to 34 ongoing schemes for the major tributaries of Ganga namely, Yamuna, Gomti and Damodar and Mahananda. The objective of these pollution abatement schemes is to restore the water quality of river to bathing class standards.

While the pollution loads generated by the ever increasing urban population in the cities/towns located on the banks exert pressure on the Water Quality, various pollution abatement works taken up under the river cleaning programme go towards mitigating the pollution level of the river Ganga. Under GAP-I, a sewage treatment capacity of 865 million litres per day (mld) and under YAP-I sewage treatment capacity of 750 mld have been created to reduce the pollution load in the Ganga and Yamuna rivers respectively. With the completion of the works of the GAP-I (1985-2000) as well as projects undertaken under GAP Phase-II (1995 onwards), notwithstanding the substantial increase in the pollution load of the river Ganga over the past years, its water quality has shown improvement at major locations over its pre-GAP quality. As regards Yamuna, the tributary of Ganga, the river water has also shown

improvement except in the stretch from Wazirabad in Delhi to Agra owing to the large gap between the demand and the availability of the sewage treatment capacity and lack of availability of fresh water for ensuring minimum flow in the river. In this connection, an Integrated Action Plan has been formulated by the Ministry of Urban Development with implementation by the concerned Implementing Agencies.

Red Jungle Fowl

2318. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Wild Red Jungle Fowl, has started to disappear from the country and whether fearing its extinction, Government have decided to undertake the first national survey to identify the exact number of pure Red Jungle Fowl still alive and then launch a management and conservation plan to protect the birds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) No scientific study on population estimate of Red Jungle Fowl is available. However, on the basis of lesser sightings of the bird in its natural habitat, a decline in its population appears to have taken place. Red Jungle Fowl is an important species as it is considered the real ancestor of domestic chicken. Considering these facts, National Board of Wildlife in its last meeting held on 19.06.2006 has approved the creation of a Specialist Group to prepare an Action Plan for the conservation of the Red Jungle Fowl. Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun has also taken up a research project on conservation of Red Jungle Fowl.

Loss of dense forests in Southern States

2319. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Southern States have seen a loss of area under dense forests;